

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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P R 111600Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2123

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, SP

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO SPAIN

REF: MADRID 3969

BEGIN SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE FONMIN ANTUNES MADE LIGHTNING
OFFICIAL VISIT TO SPAIN JUNE 10 WHICH SET STAGE FOR INTEN-
SIFICATION OF BILATERAL CONTACTS AND COOPERATION BASED ON
REAFFIRMATION OF BOTH COUNTRIES' COMMITMENT TO NON-INTERFERENCE
IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. ONLY NOTE OF DISAGREEMENT WAS ON
EVALUATION OF SITUATION IN MEDITERRANEAN AND WAYS OF DEALING
WITH IT. END SUMMARY

1. PORTUGUESE FONMIN ANTUNES MADE SIX-HOUR OFFICIAL VISIT TO
MADRID, JUNE 10, FOR TALKS WITH COUNTERPART CORTINA. THIS WAS
FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING BETWEEN TWO FONMINS SINCE PORTUGUESE
MILITARY REVOLT APART FROM BRIEF AIRPORT MEETING BETWEEN CORTINA
AND SOARES DURING TECHNICAL STOPOVER IN MADRID LAST SUMMER AND
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SUBSEQUENT MEETING AT UN IN NEW YORK.

2. ACCORDING TO MFA DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, ANTUNES AND CORTINA HELD LENGTHY TETE-A-TETE FOLLOWED BY ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR WORKING SESSION AND LUNCH. SUBSTANCE OF TETE-A-TETE NOT AVAILABLE, BUT DIRECTOR SAID THAT ONLY AREA WHERE DIFFERENCES AROSE IN WORKING SESSION WAS ON EVALUATION OF TRENDS AND SITUATION IN MEDITERRANEAN. ANTUNES HELD VIEW-- CONSIDERED "IDEALISTIC" BY SPANIARDS -- THAT ALL LITTORAL STATES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN DISCUSSIONS OF MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES; PORTUGUESE DID NOT ACCEPT SPANISH VIEW THAT INHERENT NORTH-SOUTH DICHOTOMY IN MEDITERRANEAN BASIN MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN APPROACHING SOME ISSUES.

3. MFA DIRECTOR REPORTED THAT ANTUNES MADE GOOD IMPRESSION IN MADRID AS WELL-INFORMED LEADER WHO, THANKS TO RECENT VISITS IN EUROPE, WAS ALERT TO RISKS WHICH POSSIBLE REVOLUTIONARY EXCESSES IN PORTUGAL MIGHT HAVE ON EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGES.

4. OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE MENTIONED RESUMPTION OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF VARIOUS MIXED COMMISSIONS, WHICH HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED IN PART SINCE APRIL 25, 1974, AND ANTUNES' INVITATION TO CORTINA TO VISIT LISBON IN THE FALL.

5. ANTUNES GAVE PRE-DEPARTURE DPRESS CONFERENCE WHICH, AS CONFIRMED BY MFA DIRECTOR FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR, COVERED ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF VISIT. ANTUNES SAID MIXED COMMISSIONS IN COMMERCIAL, TECHNICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS WOULD RESUME WORK IN JULY. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THE IBERIAN PACT, SPANISH ACCESSION TO NATO, OR ISSUE OF PORTUGUESE FLIGHT CAPITAL IN SPAIN, HE SAID. ASKED ABOUT PROBLEMS OF SPANISH FIRMS IN PORTUGAL, ANTUNES SAID THESE PROBLEMS WERE BEING RESOLVED ALONG WITH PROBLEMS AFFECTING OTHER FOREIGN COMPANIES. ON MEDIA TREATMENT OF POLITICAL EVENTS IN EACH COUNTRY, ANTUNES SAID THAT "PORTUGUESE HAVE INTEREST IN SEEING THAT NEWS FROM SPAIN IS OBJECTIVE... IT IS NECESSARY TO AVOID ANY INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED AS INTERVENTION IN SPANISH AFFAIRS." ANTUNES ADDED THAT GOP HAD NO REASON TO COMPLAIN ABOUT SPANISH COVERAGE OF PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS.

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6. ACCORDING TO LOCAL COVERAGE OF ANTUNES ARRIVAL IN LISBON, FONMIN GAVE IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE SAYING THAT SPAIN HAD REAFFIRMED ITS POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND NON-ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEE GROUPS PLANNING ACTIONS AGAINST GOP. IN EXCHANGE, HE ADDED, GOP DISCUSSED TREATMENT OF SPANISH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS BY PORTUGUESE PRESS: "PORTUGUESE MEDIA SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY DISCREET

ON SPANISH THEMES TO AVOID CREATION OF PROBLEMS." ANTUNES SAID
THAT QUESTION OF SPANISH EXILES IN LISBON DID NOT COME UP IN
MADRID.

7. COMMENT: MFA DIRECTOR FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS TOLD EMBOFF
THT GOS WAS GRATIFIED BY ANTUNES PRESS STATEMENTS IN MADRID
AND LISBON ON TREATMENT OF SPANISH POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN PORTUGUESE
PRESS. TWO GOVTS HAVE APPARENTLY REACHED AN UNDERSTANDING
TO EXERCISE MUTUAL RESTRAINT IN TREATMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
AND TO AVOID ASSISTANCE TO DISSIDENT GROUPS IN EACH COUNTRY.
AMONG INITIAL RESULTS OF THIS NEW UNDERSTANDING COLD BE TIGHTER
PORTUGUESE CONTROLS OVER ACTIVITIES EXILE SUPPRTERS OF "JUNTA
DEMOCRATICA" IN LISBON. SINCE APRIL 25,1974, BOTH COUNTRIES
HAVE SHOWN HIGH DEGREE OF PRAGMATISM IN AVOIDING PROVOCATIONS
AND ANTUNES VISIT APPEARS TO BE REAFFIRMATION OF THAT APPROACH.
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